THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Newsprint Allocation Policy, 1991-92 has been announced on 4-10-1991.

(b) The main features of the new Policy and some of the changes vis-a-vis the earlier Policy are detailed in the statement attached. (*See below*)

(c) The reaction of the newspaper industry has been mixed. In some cases it has been positive, in some cautious.

Statement

Changes/modifications made in Newsprint Allocation Policy, 1991-92 as compared to previous year's Policy:

1. Newsprint will be allocated to the newspapers only after they are registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and have been in regular publication for atleast one year. Earlier a newspaper became entitled to newsprint from day one, even before it was registered with the RNI.

2. Biweeklies and tri-weeklies will not be eligible for Glazed newsprint. The minimum regularity norm for them is now 90 per cent as in the case of dailies hitherto. Earlier their regularity norms were the same as prescribed for periodicals.

3. Unlike in the past, the consumption of WPP or any other paper consumed by the newspapers outside the RNI allocation will not be taken into account while determining the entitlement of a newspaper for the allocation of newsprint for the year 1991-92.

4. The newspaper establishments have already been allowed to lift their indigenous quota of newsprint from any scheduled mill(s) of their choice w.e.f. 1-4-1991.

5. To the newspapers with annual entitlement of more than 200 MT indigenous newsprint will be allocated on half yearly basis while imported newsprint will be released quarterly. Earlier, indigenous newsprint was also allocated on quarterly basis to this category of newspapers.

Utilisation of Mass Media for Mass Education

767. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are taken by Government to utilise the mass media of Television and Radio for educating children against the evils of casteism, untouchability and other inequalities prevailing in the Indian Society; and

(b) whether Government propose to formulate schemes to make the public Telecast and Broadcast systems more effective in the direction of providing mass education on civil sense?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Akashvani and Doordarshan broadcast/telecast programmes for children in different formats which include educational items on the themes of evils of casteism, untouchability etc.

(b) Akashvani and Doordarshan are already broadcasting/telecasting programmes disseminating information to educate the masses on civic sense, and would continue to do in the future.

Telecast from foreign satellites

768. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecast from foreign satellites are increasing in India;